

### **The Miller and the Donkey**

Once upon a time, an old miller and his son were on their way to the market with a donkey. They wanted to sell him and get money. They drove him very slowly. For they thought, they would have a better chance to sell him if they kept him in good condition. As they walked along the highway, some travelers laughed loudly at them. "What foolishness," cried one, "to walk when they might as well to ride. The most stupid of the three is not the one you would expect it to be." The miller did not like to be laughed at, so he told his son to climb up and ride.

They had gone a little farther along the road, when three merchants passed by. "Oh! What do we have here?" they cried. "Respect old age, young man! Get down and let the old man ride." Though the miller was not tired, he made the boy get down and climbed up himself to ride, just to please the merchants.

At the next street, they met some women. "Look at the old fool, rested on the donkey while that poor boy has to walk."

said one of them. The miller felt a bit angry, but to be agreeable he told the boy to climb up behind him. “What a crime! To load up a poor donkey like that” said one of the women. The miller and his son quickly scrambled down.

Soon, they arrived at the market place. A great crowd of people ran out to get a close look at the strange sight. The donkey did not dislike being rode on, but many people came up to point and shout at him, and he began to kick and bray. Just then, the ropes that held him gave way, and the donkey tumbled into the river. The poor miller now set out sadly for home. By trying to please everybody, he had pleased nobody and lost his donkey.

Textfrom:改編自美國國會圖書館兒童伊索寓言故事“The Miller, the Sonandthe Donkey”  
新竹縣 107 學年度國小英語競賽朗讀文章

